

(a) (1) In addition to the licensing of racing [as hereinbefore provided], the Commission [is authorized in its discretion to] MAY issue licenses for the holding of trotting and pacing meetings at which there may be offered stakes, purses or awards, and at which there may be exercised pari-mutuel betting privileges, to ~~the Rosecroft Trotting and Pacing Association, Inc., Laurel Harness Racing Association, Inc., and Ocean Downs Racing Association, Inc., and the~~ NOT MORE THAN THREE RACING ASSOCIATIONS. THE Commission shall have supervisory powers over such meetings and those licensed in the same manner and to the same extent, where not inappropriate, as it has by virtue of the provisions of this article over those licensed under the provisions of §§ 7 and 15 of this article, provided, however, that under this section not more than one license with pari-mutuel betting privilege shall be issued in any county or in Baltimore City and that no such license shall be issued hereafter in Carroll, Dorchester, Frederick, Montgomery or Wicomico counties. ~~HOWEVER, IF THE ROSECROFT TROTTING AND PACING ASSOCIATION, INC., THE LAUREL HARNESS RACING ASSOCIATION, INC., OR THE OCEAN DOWNS RACING ASSOCIATION, INC., CEASE TO OWN THE FACILITIES AT WHICH THEIR TROTTING AND PACING MEETINGS ARE HELD, THE COMMISSION MAY ISSUE LICENSES FOR THE HOLDING OF TROTTING AND PACING MEETINGS TO THE SUCCESSIVE OWNERS.~~

(2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE GOVERNING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO RACING DATES, THE HARNESS RACING BOARD, AFTER HAVING DENIED, REVOKED, OR SUSPENDED A LICENSE PURSUANT TO SECTION 7 OR SECTION 10 OF THIS ARTICLE, MAY ASSIGN SOME OR ALL OF THE HARNESS RACING DATES PREVIOUSLY AWARDED, OR WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN AWARDED, TO ANY PERSON, ASSOCIATION, OR CORPORATION LICENSED UNDER THIS ARTICLE TO CONDUCT RACING. AN ASSIGNMENT OF DATES MAY ONLY BE MADE WITH THE CONSENT OF THE PERSON, ASSOCIATION, OR CORPORATION TO WHICH THE ASSIGNMENT IS MADE.

(3) THE ASSIGNMENT OF DATES UNDER PARAGRAPHS (2) THROUGH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL CONSTITUTE A LICENSE AND NOT A FRANCHISE.

(4) A LICENSEE WHICH CONDUCTS RACING PURSUANT TO AN ASSIGNMENT OF DATES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL RUN THESE DATES AS HARNESS RACING DATES AND SHALL PAY ALL FEES, TAXES, AND DISTRIBUTIONS FROM THE MUTUEL POOLS AS REQUIRED BY LAW FOR HARNESS RACING DATES.

(5) AFTER JULY 1, 1982, PARAGRAPHS (2) THROUGH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE OF NO FURTHER EFFECT.

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety and having been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by~~